

Margaret Carlson said, "It was pandering of the worst sort, and it's indefensible."

Morton Kondracke said, "It's evidence of a character disorder on Bill Clinton's part."

Mr. Speaker, candidate Bill Clinton promised a middle-class tax cut, but then President Bill Clinton raised taxes on the American people. This week the Republican majority will deliver on those promised tax cuts, and it is about time.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS RECONCILIATION TO TAKE OUR ECONOMY HOSTAGE

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today, as we begin debating the reconciliation, we are debating nothing less than the path the United States will take in the future. On issues from education to the environment, health care to nutrition, the choices we make will have an impact for many years.

But of all the choices we make, none is more critical than this: We cannot allow our very significant differences over reconciliation to take our economy hostage. We cannot allow a failure to raise the debt ceiling to force America into default.

I want to make just two simple points (about this): First, no matter how stringent the budget action we take this week, the debt ceiling will still have to be raised. There is no way to avoid it without pushing us into default.

And second, no one knows what the consequences of default could be because it has never happened before. I, for one, see a real potential for worldwide economic disruption. I urge my colleagues to avoid politics or grandstanding on this incredibly important issue.

TAXES ARE KILLING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. SHADEGG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, enough of the rhetoric from the other side. We are engaged in a great debate here about the budget, about the issue of tax cuts or deficit relief.

Mr. Speaker, I just heard the minority leader come to this floor and say the Republicans were out of touch. He said they ought to take a step out and talk to real working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, he did not know what I did last weekend because last weekend I spent hours in front of grocery stores and drug stores in any district, and I asked the American people the question my colleagues and I are debating, "Do you need tax relief?" And their answer, and I did this in a working-class

neighborhood in my district with real people, was that we need tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, one of them said, "Taxes are killing the American people."

Now the other side calls this tax relief for the rich, but that is garbage, and they know it. Rich people do not have any more children than poor people.

As young ladies walked up to me with one baby in their arms and another dragging along behind them, I asked them, "Could you use a thousand dollars' tax credit?"

Mr. Speaker, they said to me, "You bet I could."

I ask my colleagues, "Whose money is it, and who can better spend it?" That side says government can spend it better. I say we can spend it better by giving it to the American people.

WELCOME TO THE GINGRICH REVOLUTION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues say their tax package benefits the middle class. I guess it all depends on how you define middle class.

In today's Washington Post one Republican Congressman explains that GOP tax credits for people making \$200,000 a year are not tax breaks for the wealthy, because people making \$200,000 a year are not wealthy, they are lower middle class.

The Congressman is quoted as saying: "When I see someone who is making anywhere from \$300,000 to \$750,000 a year, that's middle class."

If Republicans consider a person making \$750,000 a year as middle class, I am beginning to understand how they can claim that this budget helps the middled class. In fact, by GOP calculations, NEWT GINGRICH might qualify for food stamps. Except there would not be food stamps, because they are being cut to help out those poor, struggling families making \$750,000 a year. Welcome to the Gingrich revolution.

A PATRIOTIC OBJECTION

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow a courageous young man named Michael New is to be arraigned for a court martial.

Mr. New's offense is that he refused to wear the blue uniform of the United Nations on a peacekeeping mission to Macedonia.

He has not refused to go overseas on the peacekeeping mission as ordered.

He simply has taken the position that his oath upon entering military service was to the United States—not the United Nations—and he wanted to wear his U.S. Army uniform.

Obviously, this young man loves America, and he has taken a very patriotic stand.

Most Americans believe that the young men and women in our Armed Forces should not be sent overseas except under the command of American generals and admirals.

The Members of Congress who are the most concerned with the treatment of Mr. New are generally the Members who are among the strongest supporters of the U.S. military.

Our Armed Forces are going to squander a great deal of public and congressional support if they continue to prosecute Michael New.

They could easily have found other duty for someone who was making a reasonable, principled, and patriotic objection as was Mr. New.

RECONCILIATION WITH A "W"

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I talked about the words that the Gingrich revolution uses to sneak up on people and make them think that they are all warm fuzzies. Reconciliation is one of those words. It sounds so warm and wonderful, but let me say, unless you are in the middle class that the Republicans have had defined by them, by the gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman HEINEMAN, as those people from \$300,000 a year to \$750,000, unless you are in that middle class, reconciliation is spelled this way for you.

This is really "wreconciliation" for the middle class. That is where I am, and I think we need to go into this much further and point it out before this all happens and before people are lulled to sleep.

What happens to the elderly? Boom. What happens to families? Boom. What happens to children? Boom. We are going to wreck families, children, and all sorts of people's sustainable income that has kept them in what we define as the middle class.

So, pull it away, and away they fall. This is wreconciliation; do not be fooled by the word.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Jay Thomas, who lives in Wichita, KS, said, "I would just like to know where I could go to hear the truth," and, as we heard before, supposedly we snuck up on people, because he heard that nutrition programs were being cut and that children would starve, but there have been no reports of children starving. In fact, nutrition programs are up 4 percent in the Republican budget.